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FROM Bruce E Harang

DATE 2006-04-29 21:31:13 GMT

RE FW: US Appl. No. 10/709,259 - Response to
Office action dated 03/03/2006

COVER MESSAGE

Attached is a 1 page transmittal sheet, 10 page amendment, 2 pages of replacement drawing sheets, and 2 pages of annotated drawing sheets, a total of 15 pages for:

US Appl. No.: 10/709,259

Art Unit: 2835

Filed: 04/24/2004

Examiner:

Robert Joseph Hoffberg

Inventor: Joan Carreras

Conf. No.: 3258

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23688

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Appl. No.: 10/709,259
Amdt. Dated: 4/29/2006
Reply to Office action of: 03/03/2006

different features of the fuses to maximize protection of the electrical components.

With respect to Claim 4, Nelson in view of Fouts et al. teach the claimed invention of the above claims. Nelson further teach that the cover forms a single piece (see Fig. 3) therewith, and is joined therewith through a pivoting line determining a joint or a swinging hinge (Col. 3, line 67, hinged), said cover being provide with fixing means (#26) for fixing it to the module in a closed position (see Fig. 4).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The key to Applicants' invention, as mentioned above, is an easily removable fuse holding module that contains a variety of different fuse types protecting automotive circuits directed to safety diagnoses circuits and circuits used to provide periodic controls such that they may easily be inspected and said circuits more easily maintained.

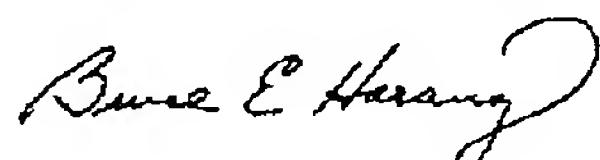
A fair reading of the Nelson, Jr. (US 5,904,514) reference, as mentioned above, discloses a removable fuse block module which is specifically directed to contain only the fuses controlling the critical operating electrical circuits such that when removed the vehicle is inoperable and therefore theft proof. The reference further teaches that the fuse block module need be restricted to as few operating circuit fuses as suitable to disable the vehicle to provide the smallest size because the module will need to be carried by the vehicle operator when the vehicle is not in use. Furthermore, the Nelson, Jr. reference teaches the desirability of having a keypad type security system incorporated into the fuse block module to secure further the vehicle from theft when the original fuse block module is disengaged. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertions this reference does not teach a module fuse block suitable for providing easy and convenient removal of fuses associated with the safety diagnoses circuits and circuits used to provide periodic controls, nor does it suggest to one skilled in the art that such a module may be produced from the teachings of the Nelson, Jr. reference. In addition, the Nelson, Jr. reference fails to teach a hinged cover adaptable to cover at least two different fuse type holders but instead fails to teach anything about the possibility of more than a single type or style of fuse and a simple cover to cover a sing type or style of fuse. The preferred embodiments of the Nelson, Jr. reference having a keypad entry security system further teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention as it would be counterproductive to have a secret entry code and then have to provide it to every service person needing to inspect the systems controlled by the fuse block module.

Appl. No.: 10/709,259
Amdt. Dated: 4/29/2006
Reply to Office action of: 03/03/2006

A fair reading of the Fouts et al. (US 5,179,503) reference discloses a junction box adaptable to accept a plurality of modules containing electric and electronic components in various configurations. The junction box itself contains no fuses or other components. All fuses and other components must first be mounted in a module and the module mounted into the junction box. The cover of the junction box covers the whole junction box and there is no provision for covering a single module having more than one type of component separately from the whole junction box. Furthermore, none of the removable modules are designed to be removed and carried with the vehicle operator to provide theft security. Thus, this reference lacks the required impetus for one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Fouts et al. with the teaching of Nelson, Jr. Likewise, the Nelson, Jr. reference does not contain the necessary impetus to suggest to one skilled in the art how to combine the modules of Fouts et al. with the security features contained in its teaching to arrive at an easily removable fuse module suitable for providing easy and convenient removal of fuses associated with the safety diagnoses circuits and circuits used to provide periodic controls. Thus, these references are not combinable as suggested by the Examiner and even if they were combinable do not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Clearly, when viewed in this light this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be removed.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments